Delhi. To check the nefarious activities of touts outside the Registration offices of the Transport Department, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has written to the Local Police, Anti Corruption Department and Local bodies including NDMC to take effective steps against these undesirable elements. From 1-1-1990 to July, 1993, the Local Police have registered a total number of 29 cases against the unscrupulous characters and touts involving 93 persons at Tilak Marg Office. The officers of the Transport Department are also making rounds to check the nefarious activities of touts. Necessary instructions have been issued to the staff members by the Department not to entertain any outsider except genuine persons.

The grant/renewal of driving licences is made when an individual person fulfils the requirements under the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act and Rules framed thereunder. In general the visiting public are promptly being attended to.

**Road Transport to All States from Delhi**

4145. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN :
SHRI J. S. RAJU :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government propose to evolve a system of road transport to all States from Delhi as it will strengthen the bonds of national integration;

(b) if so, what are the plans present and future; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Transport Authorities of the States are empowered as per the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and the Rules made thereunder to issue permits for operation of vehicles connecting various States in the country.

As per Section 88, sub-section (9) of the Motor Vehicles Act the State Transport Authorities can grant permits in respect of tourist vehicles valid for the whole of India or such contiguous States not less than three States including the State in which the permit is issued.

For the purpose of encouraging long distance inter-State Road Transport State Transport Authorities are also empowered as per sub-section 12 of Section 88 of the Motor Vehicles Act to grant National Permits in respect of goods carriages. National Permits are issued to goods carriages to operate throughout the territory of India or such contiguous States not being less than 4 in number including the State in which the permit is issued.

**Private Sector Participation for Maintenance of National Highways**

4146. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to invite the Private Sector in construction, maintenance and operation of fee based facilities on National Highways on "build, operate and transfer" (BOT) basis;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the areas to be covered; and

(d) how Government propose to implement the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has been contemplating to involve Private Sector including NRIs in construction, maintenance and operation of fee-based facilities on National Highways. Pending finalisation of the decision in this context, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has recently been signed amongst the Government of India, State Government of Maharashtra and Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited (IL&FS) for taking up Panvel Bypass on N. H. No. 4 in Maharashtra on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

**India's Overseas Trade**

4147. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the share of Indian and Foreign Shipping Lines in the total volume of India's Overseas Trade in 1991-92;

(b) what is the share of Indian tonnage in the total world tonnage; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to improve the Indian tonnage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The share of Indian and Foreign Shipping lines in the total volume of India's overseas trade for 1991-92 was 35.9% and 64.1%, respectively.

(b) The share of Indian tonnage in the total world tonnage in terms of GRT is about 1.41 per cent.

(c) The Government have taken the following steps to improve the Indian tonnage:

1. Automatic approval is now given for:—

(i) Acquisition of all categories of ships except crude tankers and OSVs, by Private Shipowning Companies.

(ii) Sale of ships for further trading/scrapping to a company within India or abroad.

(iii) Acquisition of ship from an Indian Shipyard; and

(iv) Acquisition for replacement tonnage.

2. Shipping companies have been allowed to retain sale proceeds of their ships abroad and utilise them for fresh acquistion.

3. Shipping companies have been given freedom to time charter out Indian ships to foreign shipping companies.

4. Shipping companies are allowed to acquire vessels through bare boat charter-cum-demise method.

5. Quarterly Block Allocation Scheme for repair of ships has been dispensed with entirely and Reserve Bank of India now releases foreign exchange for ship repair dry docking and spares for imported capital goods without any value limit.

6. Freight charges on account of movement of fertilizer and petroleum products are now allowed to be paid in convertible currency on par with other commodities.

7. With a view to attracting foreign capital for acquisition of ships, Government have relaxed the minimum percentage of share capital of an Indian company to be held by citizens of India, from 60% to 49% as per Section 21(ii)(b) of Merchant Shipping Act 1958.

**Wages of Port Workers**

4148. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major ports and workers employed in these ports;

(b) what has been the growth in the volume of traffic vis-a-vis work force during 1980 and 1990;

(c) what has been the growth in the real wages of port workers during 1980—90; and

(d) efforts made by Government to safeguard the real wages of the port workers from erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There are eleven major ports and about 1.13 lakhs Class III & IV employees/workers were employed by the major Port Trusts and Dock Labour Boards as on 31-12-1992.

(b) Total traffic handled at the major ports in the years 1980-81 and 1990-91 and number of employees/workers under the major Port Trusts and Dock Labour Boards as on 31st December, 1980 and 1990 are as given below:—

| Total traffic handled | Total number of employees/workers |
|---|---|
| 1980-81 80.27 million tonnes. | 31-12-1980 — 1.43 Lakhs |
| 1990-91 152.86 million tonnes. | 31-12-1990 — 1.23 Lakhs |

(c) Wage (Pay and Dearness Allowance) at the minimum of the lowest pay scale of a port worker is as under:—

| |
|---|
| 1980 (December) — Rs. 618 per month |
| 1990 (December) — Rs. 1726 per month |

(d) Wages of port workers have been revised periodically.

**New Scheme for Road Developments in Priority List**

4149. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SURFECE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the Eighth Plan about 20